



# Bristol's Budget 2023 to 2024

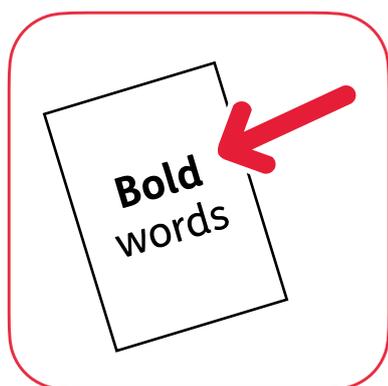
What do you think?



Easy  
Read

# Contents

Introduction.....	3
We want to know what you think.....	4
Council Tax .....	5
Extra money for social care.....	7
Bigger increases in Council Tax .....	9
Ways we can save money .....	10
Other ideas for saving money .....	21
Your ideas.....	29
About you.....	30
Make our surveys better .....	39
Thank you.....	41
For more information .....	42



In this Easy Read document, hard words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after we have used them.



Some words are [blue and underlined](#).  
These are links that will go to another website which has more information.

# Introduction



Bristol City Council needs more money to pay for the services we provide to people in Bristol.

This is because:



- The cost of providing services is going up a lot.



- More people need services from the council.

To make sure the council doesn't run out of money next year, we think we will need to:



- Ask people in Bristol to pay more in taxes to the council each month.



- Change some of the services we provide - this will include providing less of some services, and stopping some services completely.

# We want to know what you think



We still want to keep helping people in the ways that they need.



Before we decide how much we ask people to pay and how we change our services, we want to know what you think.



Please read this document and tell us what you think by answering the questions. You don't have to answer all the questions if you don't want to.



We need your answers by Friday, 23 December 2022.

# Council Tax



Bristol City Council is looking at how much **Council Tax** we ask people to pay next year 2023 to 2024.



**Council Tax** is money that people pay to their local council for services like libraries, emptying bins and fixing the roads.



If we ask people to pay more Council Tax it will help pay for the services we need to provide.

**Question 1:** Which of these options would you prefer?



No increase to Council Tax. This means the council may not be able to pay for all the services people need.



A small increase in Council Tax of about 28 pence a week for most people. Bigger houses would pay more, up to 73 pence extra a week. This would give the council £2.5 million extra to pay for services next year.



An increase in Council Tax of about 57 pence a week for most people. Bigger houses would pay more, up to £1.46 extra each week. This would give the council £5 million extra to pay for services next year.



An increase in Council Tax of about 85 pence a week for most people. Bigger houses would pay more, up to £2.19 extra each week. This would give the council £7.5 million extra to pay for services next year.

# Extra money for social care



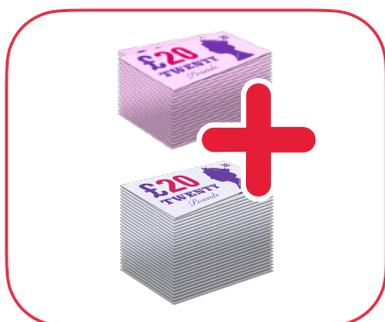
**Social care** is the extra support some people need with everyday things such as personal care.



There are many more people in Bristol who need social care.



If the council asks people to pay money on top of Council Tax, it will help to pay towards the extra cost of social care.



The extra money of top of Council Tax is called a 'social care precept'.

**Question 2:** Which of these options would you prefer?



No extra money to pay for social care.



An extra 28 pence a week for most people, on top of Council Tax, to pay for social care. Bigger houses would pay more, up to 73 pence extra a week.



An extra 57 pence a week for most people, on top of Council Tax, to pay for social care. Bigger houses would pay more, up to £1.46 extra each week.



An extra 85 pence a week for most people, on top of Council Tax, to pay for social care. Bigger houses would pay more, up to £2.19 extra each week.

# Bigger increases in Council Tax



The government is thinking about telling councils that they can charge even more Council Tax and money towards social care.

This would help councils to improve the services they provide.



**Question 3:** If the government allows it, would you be ok to pay even more Council Tax?

Yes

No



**Question 4:** If the government allows it, would you be ok to pay even more on top of your Council Tax, towards social care?

Yes

No

# Ways we can save money



Please tell us what you think about these ideas for the council to save money. These are ideas that we have thought about a lot.

## Children and young people



**Idea 1:** Finding and training more **foster parents** so we don't have to pay for children to live in expensive places outside Bristol.



A **foster parent** is someone who looks after a homeless child in their own home.

**Question 5:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot





**Idea 2:** Giving more special help to foster parents to look after children who need a lot of support and care. This will save money and also be better for the children.

**Question 6:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot



**Idea 3:** We want to have more local homes for children who need a lot of support and care. This will save money and also be good for the children.

**Question 7:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot





**Idea 4:** Providing more support to family members or friends who look after teenagers who can't live with their parents. This will mean the teenagers can stay with the family member or friend and will not need more expensive support later.

**Question 8:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot



**Idea 5:** Do more to keep our experienced social workers so we don't have to pay more for temporary workers.

**Question 9:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot





**Idea 6:** Have more space in the children's homes that are run by the council.

This will stop us having to pay for as many expensive places outside Bristol, and will be better for children

**Question 10:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot



# Climate change



**Climate change** is all about big changes in the weather. For example, storms getting worse than they used to be. Climate change will be bad for people, animals and plants in Bristol and around the world.



People cause climate change by burning gas or oil. We burn oil when we travel and we burn gas and oil when we heat buildings.

The council is working to change how we travel and heat our buildings so there is less climate change.



**Idea 7:** Decrease our costs and find other types of funding to pay for the work we do to reduce the changes to the climate. This will mean the council can spend less but still get our work done.

**Question 11:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot



## Health and care



**Idea 8:** Change the way we run our support for adults so that we still provide enough support, but with fewer staff. This will mean we will have to stop providing some things that people like.

**Question 12:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot



**Idea 9:** Check that companies we pay to provide care are using the money in the right way. This will mean the services are fair and good value.

**Question 13:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot





**Idea 10:** See if another company could run the East Bristol Intermediate Care Centre. If we cannot find another company we would close the centre.

This centre works with adults who are getting better after being in hospital.

**Question 14:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot



**Idea 11:** Reduce the service we set up to help people pay off their debts to the council.

Instead we would let people know about other debt advice that is available.

**Question 15:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot





**Idea 12:** Many of our services are for people who don't have much money. We have to work out how much money people have, so we know how much help we can give them.



We want to make sure this work is well organised so that we are not doing extra work that isn't needed.

**Question 16:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot





The council helps some organisations pay less **Business Rates**.

**Business Rates** are taxes that businesses pay to the council.



**Idea 13:** Change the rules so that most businesses pay the full Business Rates. Charities and other local community organisations would pay more than they do now, but less than the full Business Rates.

**Question 17:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot





**Idea 14:** Keep our rules on who can pay less Business Rates.

We should check more closely which organisations pay less.

**Question 18:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot



**Idea 15:** Halve the amount of money we spend on emergency help for people who have no money. We will let people know about other debt advice that they can get. We will increase the money again if we get more money from the government.

**Question 19:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot



## Homeless people



**Idea 16:** We will save money by letting homeless people stay in homes that are empty, rather than paying for them to stay in hotels.

**Question 20:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot



## Transport and roads



**Idea 17:** We want to find other money to pay for fixing our roads and making them better for walking, cycling and buses.

**Question 21:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot



# Other ideas for saving money



We have some other ideas for ways to save money that we still need to think about some more.



But we would like to know you think of these ideas so far.

## Children and young people



**Idea 18:** We want to look at how the different services for very young children and their families can work together better. We may provide more support online and need fewer staff and buildings.

**Question 22:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot

Agree

Neither

Disagree

Disagree a lot





**Idea 19:** There are new ways to work with children who have a lot of difficulty with behaviour. We want to look at how we can use them to help children better and save money.

**Question 23:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot



**Idea 20:** We want to look at better and cheaper ways for children and young people with **SEND** to travel to school.

**SEND** stands for special educational needs and disabilities.

**Question 24:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot





**Idea 21:** We will look at how to give more support more quickly to families who have big difficulties. This will stop things getting worse and save money.

We want children who have difficulties to carry on living with their families.

**Question 25:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot



## Culture



**Idea 22:** We want to look at how we support music, art and culture, so that we can spend less money in better ways. We will look at what staff we need to do this.

**Question 26:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot



## Health and care



**Idea 23:** We will look at better and cheaper ways to provide day services - these are activities for people who need support during the day.

**Question 27:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot



**Idea 24:** We will look at better ways to support people at Redfield Lodge - this is a care home for older people who need a lot of help.

**Question 28:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot





**Idea 25:** We will look at better ways to support people at Concord Lodge - this is a care home for young people with a learning disability.

**Question 29:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot



**Idea 26:** We will look at better ways to help people who have difficulty paying their Council Tax. We would spend less money but make sure the help goes to people who need it the most.

**Question 30:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot



## Libraries



**Idea 27:** We will reduce the amount the council spends on libraries. We will see if there are better ways of running our libraries - this may mean having a smaller library service.

We may move the central library to a different place.

**Question 31:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot



## Parks



**Idea 28:** We will look at how we can run our parks and green spaces with less money and fewer staff. We may let other organisations look after some parks and we will stop doing some things, or do them differently to save money.

**Question 32:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot



## Community and Neighbourhoods team



**Idea 29:** We will save money by having fewer staff in the Community and Neighbourhoods team. This will reduce how much we can do.

**Question 33:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot



## Buses and transport

Idea 30: We will save money by:



- Stopping doing things that we don't have to do.



- Looking at how much we spend on bus stops and bus shelters.



- Looking at earning more money from adverts on our bus shelters.

**Question 34:** Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot



# Your ideas



**Question 35:** Can you think of any other ways that the council could:

- Save money?
- Earn more money?

If you want to, you can tell us here any reasons for your answers to the earlier questions.

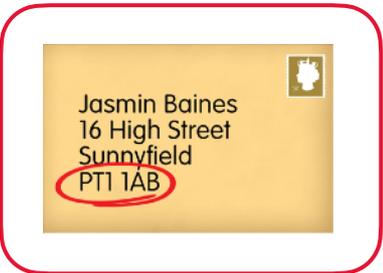
# About you



Please answer these questions about you to help us make sure we are hearing from different groups of people.



We will follow the law about keeping your information safe and private.



**Question 36:** What is your postcode?



**Question 37:** How old are you?

Prefer not to say

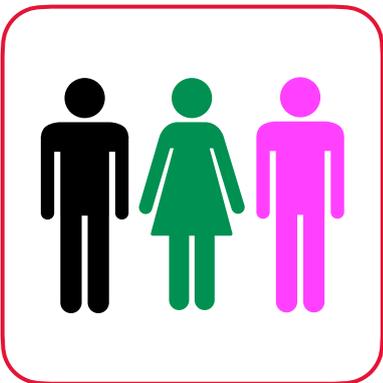


**Question 38:** Are you disabled?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say



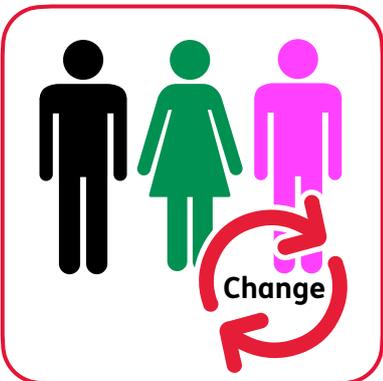
**Question 39:** What is your sex?

Female

Male

Prefer not to say

Other - please say



**Question 40:** Have you changed your gender, or are you thinking of doing this?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say



**Question 41:** What is your ethnic background? *Only tick 1 box*

Asian

Black

Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller

More than 1 ethnic background

White British

White Irish

Other white background

Prefer not to say

Any other ethnic background -  
please say



**Question 42: What is your religion?**

- No religion
- Buddhist
- Christian
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Pagan
- Sikh
- Prefer not to say
- Any other religion - please say



**Question 43: Are you...**

- Bisexual - you are attracted to both men and women
- A gay man - you are a man and attracted to men
- A gay woman or lesbian - you are a woman and attracted to women
- Heterosexual or straight - you are attracted to the opposite sex
- Prefer not to say
- Other - please say



**Question 44:** Are you pregnant or do you have a new baby?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say



**Question 45:** Are you a **refugee or asylum seeker**?

A **refugee or asylum seeker** is someone who has left their own country and asks to live in a new country.

Yes

No

Prefer not to say



**Question 46: Are you...**

- Someone who lives in Bristol
- Working in Bristol but living somewhere else
- Answering these questions for a local business
- Answering these questions for a housing association
- Answering these questions for a community organisation
- A councillor
- A MP
- Answering these questions for a health service
- Answering these questions for a transport company
- A worker at Bristol City Council
- Other - please say



**Question 47:** How did you hear about this questionnaire?

- Poster
- It was posted to me
- Email from the council
- A council worker told me
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Nextdoor
- Instagram
- LinkedIn
- A message from Ask Bristol
- A group of friends
- From an organisation that you are part of

- From an organisation that helps you at work
- Local councillor or MP
- Radio or TV
- Newspaper or a news website
- Citizen Service Point
- Someone told me
- Other - please say



If you heard about this questionnaire from an organisation or group - please say which one.

# Make our surveys better



Do you agree or disagree that you have had enough information to answer the questions?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot



Do you agree or disagree that having these questions has made it easy for you to say what you think?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot





Do you agree or disagree that this questionnaire is accessible to you?

Agree a lot



Agree



Neither



Disagree



Disagree a lot



If you don't agree with any of the things we have done to make this survey better, please explain why.

A large, empty rounded rectangular box intended for the respondent to write their explanation.

# Thank you



Thank you for your answers.

Please now send your answers back to us by:



- email: [consultation@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@bristol.gov.uk)



- post:  
Consultation and Engagement  
Bristol City Council  
City Hall  
College Green  
Bristol BS1 5TR



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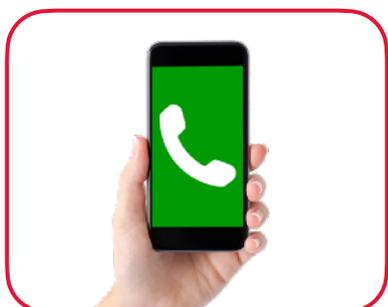
# For more information



You can look at our website here:

[www.ask.bristol.gov.uk/  
budget-2023-24](http://www.ask.bristol.gov.uk/budget-2023-24)

If you need more information please contact us by:



- Phone: 0117 922 2848



- Email: [consultation@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@bristol.gov.uk)

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